

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Enclosed herewith are amended drawings. Specifically, and as shown on the enclosed drawing sheets, Figs. 3 and 5 have been amended to delete the sectional view 5 in Fig. 3 and to correct the reference characters with respect to the outwardly and inwardly directed projections. It is respectfully submitted that the corrected drawings are in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d) and the Examiner's requirements.

Turning to the art rejections, Claims 1-7 stand rejected as being anticipated by Krueger et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,803,193 (Krueger). The rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has misconstrued the teachings of the Krueger reference and more specifically the portion of Krueger in column 8, lines 2-5, interpreted by the Examiner as disclosing interlocking members capable of preventing axial movement of the centralizer with respect to the pipe. The cited lines of Krueger do not teach interlocking members. Rather, the cited lines teach that the collars which are above and below the sleeve act as thrust bearings and do, in fact, prevent the sleeve from moving, to any significant extent, axially along the drill pipe. However, there are no interlocking members and, in fact, if there were interlocking members between the collars 22 and 24 and the sleeve, the thrust of the Krueger invention would be frustrated.

In the Krueger reference, while the sleeve is normally fixed in place on the drill pipe as taught in column 8, lines 28 *et seq.*, under contact with the inside wall of the casing, the sleeve stops rotating while allowing the drill pipe to

continue rotating inside the sleeve. Thus, the drill pipe and sleeve are capable of relative rotation when the sleeve engages the wall of the casing or, in an open-hole situation the wall of the well bore. That is precisely while the collars 22 and 24 are referred to as thrust bearings. However, the thrust bearings/collars 22 and 24 while preventing any substantial axial movement along the drill pipe, do permit the sleeve therebetween to rotate relative to the collars 22, 24. If, as suggested by the Examiner there were interlocking members between the collars 22, 24 and the sleeve, then the sleeve would not be able to rotate relative to the drill pipe because as taught in column 8, lines 5-7, the thrust bearings are rigidly affixed to the drill pipe and rotate with the drill pipe during use. Interlocking the collar/thrust bearings with the sleeve would prevent the sleeve from rotating and thus frustrate the whole teaching of the Krueger reference which relies on the fact that under circumstances when the sleeve engages the wall of the casing/wellbore, the drill pipe continues to rotate inside the sleeve. Accordingly, it is abundantly clear that not only does the Krueger reference not disclose interlocking members between the collars 22, 24 and the sleeve/centralizer, such a structure would be antithetical to the Krueger invention.

Applicant's Claim 1 calls for a clamp and fasteners which can tighten the internal surfaces of the clamp against the insulative coating such that the two sections of the clamp are axially fixed in position with respect to the metallic pipe and interlocking members on the clamp which engage the one or more centralizers. That structure is not shown or suggested by Krueger and, as pointed out above, would frustrate the operation of the Krueger invention.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-7 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Krueger.

Claims 10, and 15-17 stand rejected as unpatentable over Krueger. As demonstrated above, Claim 1 is clearly patentable over Krueger. Since Claims 10, and 15-17 are all dependent claims and further limit Claim 1, it is clear that those claims are likewise patentable over Krueger.

Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 8, 9, and 11-14 would be allowable if written in independent form. In view of the foregoing remarks and the drawing corrections, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance which is hereby earnestly solicited and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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